



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending April 28, 2002

Fair week for Field Work: Average temperatures fell drastically last week, some areas around the state reached the low twenties. Despite the cooler temperatures, 4 days were suitable for field work. Throughout Pennsylvania, precipitation ranged from a quarter of an inch to slightly less than two inches. Soil moisture levels improved for a second week with only 13 percent rated as very short to short and 87 percent rated as adequate or in surplus. Principal farm activities included spring plowing, planting and seedbed preparation; seeding oats and alfalfa; fixing fences; machinery maintenance; spreading lime and fertilizers; hauling and spreading manure; and spraying herbicides and pesticides.

Crops: Favorable moisture levels helped wheat, barley, oats and pasture conditions to continue to recover after a dry winter. With the recent moisture, Pennsylvania's wheat crop remained at 81 percent rated as good to excellent and only 2 percent rated as poor to very poor. Only five percent has headed, slightly ahead of the average. Sixty-four percent of the oat acreage has been seeded and 40 percent has emerged which is 11 percent above the five year average. Ninety-two percent of the Commonwealth's oat acreage was rated as good to excellent. The 13 percent of corn acres planted is 4 percent above the five year average. Spring plowing, at 65 percent complete, is 26 percent ahead of a year earlier and outpacing the five year average by 10 percent. Alfalfa weevils continued to emerge and show signs of damage.

Livestock: As pasture condition improved to the five year average, 58 percent rated as good to excellent and only 8 percent rated as poor, more pastures began to be opened up for grazing this past week.

Fruit & Vegetable: Nearly all fruit trees were at or beyond full bloom, with many already flowered out. Unfortunately, many areas received heavy frosts mid-week that may have damaged the early blooming varieties of pear, peach, cherry and plum trees. Very few vegetables have been planted but preparation had begun.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 28, 2002

| Crop | Current Week | Last Year | 5-Year Average |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| | Percent | | |
| Spring Plowing | 65 | 39 | 55 |
| Corn, Planted | 13 | 7 | 8 |
| Barley, Headed | 32 | 5 | 22 |
| Winter Wheat, Headed | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Oats, Planted | 64 | 36 | 57 |
| Oats, Emerged | 40 | 9 | 29 |
| Potatoes, Planted | 14 | 18 | 17 |

U.S. As Of April 21, 2002: Record-high temperatures prompted an acceleration in fieldwork and planting activity across the eastern two-thirds of the Nation. The abnormally hot weather also stimulated development of winter grains and promoted emergence and growth of early-planted row crops. Rain delays were brief across most of the Corn Belt, although lingering moisture surpluses limited fieldwork and planting in Indiana and Ohio, and strong late-week storms prematurely ended the work week in Missouri and Illinois. With few exceptions, dry weather supported field preparations and planting in the southern Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and Southeast. Planting corn advanced to 13 percent complete, compared with 9 percent on this date last year and the 5-year average of 10 percent. Planting accelerated in the central and western Corn Belt, where dry weather and record warmth prevailed most of the week. A few fields were planted in the eastern Corn Belt, but excessive moisture prevented fieldwork in many areas of Indiana and Ohio. Wet soils also limited planting along the Ohio River Valley, but delays were not as widespread. Nearly ideal conditions supported rapid planting progress in North Carolina and Tennessee. Winter Wheat: Nine percent of the Nation's winter wheat has headed, equal to last year's pace but behind the 5-year average of 12 percent. Hot weather accelerated progress across most of the southern Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and Southeast. More than one-third of the Arkansas crop and nearly one-fifth of the North Carolina acreage headed during the week. Cold weather continued to hinder growth in the Pacific Northwest and northern High Plains, especially in Montana, where 30 percent of the crop was still dormant. Meanwhile, abnormally hot weather accelerated vegetative growth in the central Great Plains and Corn Belt, although jointing remains behind normal in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Indiana, and Ohio. A few fields were headed in Illinois and Missouri. The oat crop was 32 percent seeded, more than 1 week ahead of last year's slow progress, but only 2 days ahead of the average for this date. Emergence, at 9 percent, equaled the 5-year average for this date, but exceeded last year's 3-percent pace by nearly 1 week. Planting was active across the northern and western Corn Belt, especially in Iowa, where nearly one-third of the acreage was seeded during the week. Rain and wet soils limited progress in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Abnormally warm weather and favorable topsoil moisture aided rapid emergence and growth in Iowa and Nebraska.

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 28, 2002

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|----------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| | Percent | | | | |
| Winter Wheat | 1 | 1 | 17 | 73 | 8 |
| Oats | - | 3 | 31 | 61 | 5 |
| Alfalfa Stand | 1 | 3 | 36 | 50 | 10 |
| Timothy Clover Stand | 3 | 5 | 28 | 55 | 9 |
| Pasture Conditions | 1 | 8 | 33 | 45 | 13 |

Weather Data For Week Ending April 28, 2002

| STATION | LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY | | | | | | April 1, 02 - April 28, 02 | | | | | | GDD BASE 40F TOT |
|----------------------|---------------------------|----|-----|---------------|-------|------|----------------------------|-------|------|--------------|------|-----|---------------------------|
| | TEMPERATURE | | | PRECIPITATION | | | PRECIPITATION | | | GDD BASE 50F | | | |
| | HI | LO | AVG | DFN | TOTAL | DAYS | TOTAL | DFN | DAYS | TOTAL | DFN | | |
| <u>NORTHWEST</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erie | 64 | 30 | 43 | -8 | 0.68 | 5 | 4.25 | +1.21 | 19 | 153 | +126 | 309 | |
| Franklin_AG | 66 | 25 | 42 | -8 | 0.60 | 4 | 4.01 | +0.72 | 14 | 120 | +94 | 285 | |
| Meadville | 63 | 28 | 42 | -7 | 0.99 | 4 | 4.85 | +1.77 | 16 | 136 | +119 | 284 | |
| Mercer | 64 | 21 | 41 | -9 | 0.38 | 3 | 3.36 | +0.20 | 12 | 117 | +91 | 265 | |
| Springboro | 65 | 26 | 40 | -10 | 0.83 | 5 | 4.70 | +1.75 | 20 | 125 | +95 | 262 | |
| Warren | 67 | 27 | 41 | -8 | 1.23 | 4 | 4.48 | +1.19 | 16 | 120 | +101 | 272 | |
| <u>NORTH CENTRAL</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bradford | 60 | 20 | 39 | -7 | 0.96 | 5 | 4.31 | +1.16 | 19 | 114 | +105 | 260 | |
| Emporium | 65 | 26 | 42 | -6 | 0.81 | 5 | 3.37 | +0.19 | 17 | 120 | +108 | 278 | |
| Kane | 59 | 20 | 35 | -11 | 0.90 | 5 | 4.04 | +0.66 | 17 | 69 | +61 | 181 | |
| Laporte | 55 | 26 | 39 | -11 | 1.35 | 4 | 3.39 | +0.36 | 11 | 108 | +73 | 241 | |
| Lock_Haven | 62 | 29 | 44 | -8 | 1.14 | 4 | 2.79 | -0.07 | 12 | 153 | +115 | 332 | |
| Port_Allegany | 64 | 24 | 39 | -9 | 0.99 | 4 | 3.44 | +0.51 | 16 | 100 | +85 | 241 | |
| Renovo | 67 | 29 | 44 | -8 | 0.77 | 5 | 3.32 | +0.46 | 17 | 140 | +102 | 318 | |
| Ridgway | 63 | 23 | 40 | -8 | 0.76 | 4 | 3.04 | -0.14 | 12 | 93 | +81 | 242 | |
| Stevenson_Dam | 64 | 27 | 42 | -5 | 0.75 | 5 | 3.75 | +0.57 | 16 | 121 | +109 | 282 | |
| Towanda | 61 | 26 | 41 | -9 | 0.79 | 4 | 1.97 | -0.71 | 13 | 126 | +92 | 280 | |
| Wellsboro | 61 | 25 | 39 | -7 | 0.84 | 4 | 2.18 | +0.01 | 13 | 100 | +89 | 232 | |
| Williamsport_AP | 61 | 29 | 47 | -7 | 0.86 | 5 | 2.03 | -0.98 | 10 | 184 | +125 | 384 | |
| <u>NORTHEAST</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hawley | 60 | 24 | 41 | -8 | 1.23 | 4 | 2.87 | -0.32 | 12 | 111 | +95 | 250 | |
| Scranton | 60 | 28 | 44 | -8 | 0.69 | 4 | 2.66 | -0.09 | 14 | 176 | +135 | 364 | |
| Susquehanna | 60 | 27 | 43 | -4 | 1.20 | 4 | 2.41 | -0.95 | 12 | 143 | +130 | 302 | |
| <u>WEST CENTRAL</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Butler | 67 | 27 | 43 | -8 | 0.57 | 3 | 2.40 | -0.57 | 12 | 136 | +99 | 302 | |
| New_Castle | 66 | 28 | 44 | -7 | 0.60 | 4 | 3.00 | +0.19 | 17 | 140 | +115 | 316 | |
| Slippery_Rock | 66 | 28 | 44 | -6 | 0.74 | 5 | 3.94 | +1.02 | 17 | 138 | +117 | 308 | |
| <u>CENTRAL</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Altoona_AP | 60 | 28 | 45 | -8 | 1.10 | 3 | 4.04 | +1.09 | 10 | 160 | +107 | 344 | |
| Du_Bois | 61 | 26 | 42 | -8 | 0.97 | 5 | 4.07 | +0.97 | 19 | 141 | +117 | 306 | |
| Lewistown | 64 | 31 | 47 | -7 | 0.91 | 5 | 2.58 | -0.15 | 12 | 164 | +95 | 372 | |
| Middletown | 63 | 34 | 49 | -6 | 1.42 | 4 | 3.91 | +0.91 | 13 | 214 | +129 | 444 | |
| Prince_Gallitzi | 64 | 26 | 43 | -7 | 0.95 | 5 | 2.81 | -1.13 | 13 | 133 | +110 | 300 | |
| Selinsgrove | 61 | 29 | 45 | -8 | 0.41 | 2 | 2.84 | -0.12 | 12 | 145 | +94 | 334 | |
| State_College_P | 64 | 31 | 46 | -6 | 0.54 | 4 | 2.50 | -0.21 | 12 | 153 | +114 | 344 | |
| <u>EAST CENTRAL</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allentown | 61 | 30 | 47 | -7 | 1.25 | 4 | 3.43 | +0.17 | 13 | 189 | +129 | 399 | |
| Lehighton | 64 | 29 | 45 | -8 | 1.28 | 4 | 4.12 | +1.11 | 12 | 157 | +104 | 356 | |
| Matamoras | 60 | 26 | 41 | -11 | 1.16 | 4 | 3.05 | -0.63 | 12 | 125 | +84 | 273 | |
| Tobyhanna | 61 | 26 | 42 | -5 | 1.34 | 4 | 3.81 | +0.04 | 14 | 128 | +119 | 275 | |
| <u>SOUTHWEST</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allegheny_Co_AP | 65 | 32 | 48 | -5 | 1.13 | 5 | 3.01 | +0.03 | 15 | 221 | +168 | 426 | |
| Derry | 68 | 31 | 46 | -5 | 1.25 | 4 | 2.68 | -0.34 | 12 | 167 | +137 | 354 | |
| Meyersdale | 62 | 24 | 42 | -10 | 2.19 | 5 | 3.93 | +0.26 | 12 | 100 | +66 | 251 | |
| Mount_Pleasant | 65 | 27 | 45 | -5 | 1.46 | 3 | 3.50 | -0.34 | 12 | 150 | +129 | 332 | |
| Pittsburgh | 65 | 30 | 47 | -7 | 1.02 | 5 | 2.70 | -0.23 | 14 | 210 | +148 | 410 | |
| Rector | 69 | 25 | 45 | -4 | 1.55 | 4 | 3.48 | -0.36 | 10 | 160 | +139 | 348 | |
| Waynesburg | 69 | 28 | 46 | -6 | 1.89 | 5 | 3.50 | +0.27 | 13 | 155 | +110 | 347 | |
| <u>SOUTH CENTRAL</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biglerville | 63 | 34 | 48 | -7 | 1.39 | 5 | 3.30 | +0.18 | 14 | 185 | +100 | 403 | |
| Everett | 64 | 28 | 46 | -6 | 1.53 | 4 | 4.47 | +1.38 | 12 | 146 | +102 | 339 | |
| Hanover | 64 | 29 | 49 | -7 | 1.18 | 4 | 3.46 | +0.34 | 14 | 183 | +98 | 399 | |
| Shippensburg | 65 | 32 | 50 | -6 | 1.36 | 4 | 3.60 | +0.59 | 13 | 205 | +116 | 425 | |
| South_Mountain | 63 | 22 | 44 | -9 | 1.16 | 5 | 4.04 | +1.09 | 13 | 140 | +90 | 311 | |
| York_AP | 63 | 28 | 47 | -8 | 1.01 | 5 | 3.15 | -0.20 | 13 | 208 | +121 | 413 | |
| <u>SOUTHEAST</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Green_Lane | 67 | 33 | 50 | -4 | 1.80 | 4 | 2.78 | -0.66 | 12 | 219 | +165 | 452 | |
| Hamburg | 63 | 31 | 48 | -4 | 1.45 | 5 | 3.29 | -0.23 | 15 | 178 | +142 | 394 | |
| Hopewell | 62 | 28 | 46 | -10 | 1.60 | 3 | 2.93 | -0.51 | 11 | 170 | +79 | 376 | |
| Lancaster_AP | 62 | 33 | 49 | -5 | 1.45 | 4 | 2.98 | -0.21 | 11 | 202 | +139 | 427 | |
| Neshaminy_Falls | 64 | 32 | 48 | -6 | 1.47 | 4 | 2.45 | -1.26 | 10 | 182 | +120 | 405 | |
| New_Holland | 64 | 34 | 48 | -6 | 1.33 | 4 | 2.78 | -0.41 | 14 | 193 | +130 | 412 | |
| Philadelphia | 64 | 39 | 51 | -5 | 1.40 | 4 | 2.29 | -1.09 | 8 | 261 | +164 | 505 | |
| Philadelphia_NE | 63 | 36 | 49 | -7 | 1.59 | 4 | 2.56 | -0.82 | 10 | 236 | +139 | 470 | |
| Reading_AP | 62 | 32 | 48 | -5 | 1.46 | 4 | 3.32 | -0.21 | 10 | 214 | +162 | 437 | |
| Valley_Forge_Na | 68 | 30 | 47 | -9 | 1.54 | 4 | 2.51 | -0.93 | 11 | 188 | +97 | 400 | |
| Willow_Grove | 65 | 33 | 50 | -3 | 1.96 | 4 | 2.55 | -1.16 | 10 | 261 | +199 | 502 | |

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, BY COUNTY:

Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

“Some field work being done, however, we have not had three good days in a row to expedite any planting. The pastures are greening up and many of the dairy farmers have started grazing.”

--- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

“Still cold with many frosty mornings. There have been some reports of damage to grapes and fruit tree buds in selected areas. Main field work has been top-dressing fall grains and hay crops; plowing and planting oats.”

--- Lew Steckler, Erie County

“Spring plowing, planting oats, equipment repair. Cold conditions have slowed progress of plants this week. There may have been some frost damage to some fruit crops with low minimum temperatures.”

--- Harry Blanchet, Forest County

“Alfalfa responded to high temperatures last week but frost this week set it back. Topsoil moisture is good and in some areas above normal. However, underground water table in some areas remains at or near record lows.”

--- Sherri Butters, Tioga County

“Cool weather and rain has slowed the field work, mostly manure hauling and preparation for the coming of good soil conditions. Several farmers preparing fields for planting in less than ideal conditions for tilling the soil. This means that a high risk of severe soil compaction can occur.”

--- Harold Wareham, Blair County

“Another 2 inches of rain again this week. Too wet to do anything in fields, grass fields have water in them. Pastures have too much water in them to let cows out. The temperature outside for morning of Wednesday, April 24, was 25 degrees, with heavy frost.”

--- ‘Marina’, Huntington County

“Some insect activity on alfalfa being reported. Some spraying being completed. Most of county had a heavy frost this week after a period of above normal temperatures. Could have been some damage to fruit. With improving temperatures in the forecast, most of the corn planting is set to begin.”

--- John Lorr, Westmoreland County

“This has been a fast spring for orchards. This year almost every fruit tree was in bloom in the past 10 days including the apples which are normally in bloom on May 5. Freeze damage is now becoming apparent in the cherries. Many with black seeds. No apparent damage in apples at this time. This was a good week for field work with many acres of corn going in. Cooler weather helped to slow down the alfalfa weevil. Growth on the barley and rye was above average this past week, and most of the rye has been harvested for forage.”

--- Thomas Kerr, Franklin County

“Corn planting continues gathering momentum as soil conditions provide excellent planting conditions. Cold weather returned after last week's record heat. Light rains kept topsoil moisture conditions good, yet the overall drought concerns have not yet subsided.”

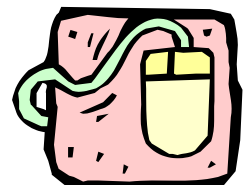
--- Wayne Kurtz, York County

“Rain over the weekend lifted spirits as well as water levels!!!”

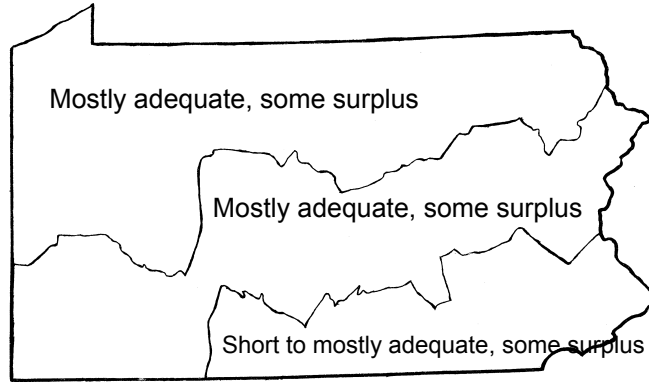
--- Randy Ranck, Lancaster County

“Most alfalfa was sprayed in the past week for alfalfa weevil control. Damage in some fields is severe.”

--- Ronald Althoff, Lancaster County



SOIL MOISTURE



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